



Krampusnacht, p.9



Greenbelt Eats, p.8

Employee Concerns Arise at Grocery Store Board Meeting

by Erica Johns



PHOTO COURTESY CO-OP SUPERMARKET AND PHARMACY

Inside the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket

The member comment portion of the Greenbelt Co-op's December 11 board meeting raised concerns about employee working conditions, which also had been raised by several employees at the August board meeting. Board Vice Chair Steven Bernheisel led the meeting.

Concerns of current and former employees who spoke at the August meeting, after General Manager Dan Gillotte was asked to leave the room, included reported lack of raises for most employees for four years, lack of

job descriptions, annual reviews or transparency around raises and assignments, as well as poor fiscal decisions in other areas (such as accruing late fees on bills). Employees also complained in August of being unable to chat with customers, even when not busy, and lack of support for employees during incidents of harassment by customers, which have included threats and being spat on.

A lot of employees are

See **CO-OP**, page 12

City Council Publicly Rebukes Councilmember Rodney Roberts

by Michael Zelif

On December 9, Greenbelt City Council addressed “unbecoming conduct of a councilmember” following a staff complaint of allegedly abusive language directed at city staff by Councilmember Rodney Roberts. Councilmember Kristen Weaver had placed the item on the agenda, an item postponed from previous meetings at the request of Roberts and some residents (see the November 7 News Review).

A number of individuals wished to comment on the complaint submitted weeks ago by the Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Action Team, the city's internal advisory group on JEDI issues, and Weaver's move to publicly rebuke Roberts. This was not a trial or formal procedure, Mayor Emmett Jordan and Weaver explained, but an agenda item to be discussed and voted on by council as authorized in the city charter.

Residents Weigh In

Resident Mary Ann Canter had



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Councilmember Rodney Roberts

listened to the city's recording of Roberts' exchanges with others on the date in question, August 12, 2024, and, while recognizing that this was only part of a larger history of council's alleged problems with Roberts, she had found nothing egregious or worthy of censure on the date in question.

Canter felt that enforcing the rule limiting any individual to three minutes in commenting during council meetings would largely solve problems of misconduct.

Resident Clara Kuehn expressed her appreciation that, on August 12, Roberts had used his considerable expertise with vehicle maintenance to question the cost of a proposed repair and stated, “I watched the video and didn't hear anything abusive, disrespectful or demeaning directed at [city] employees.”

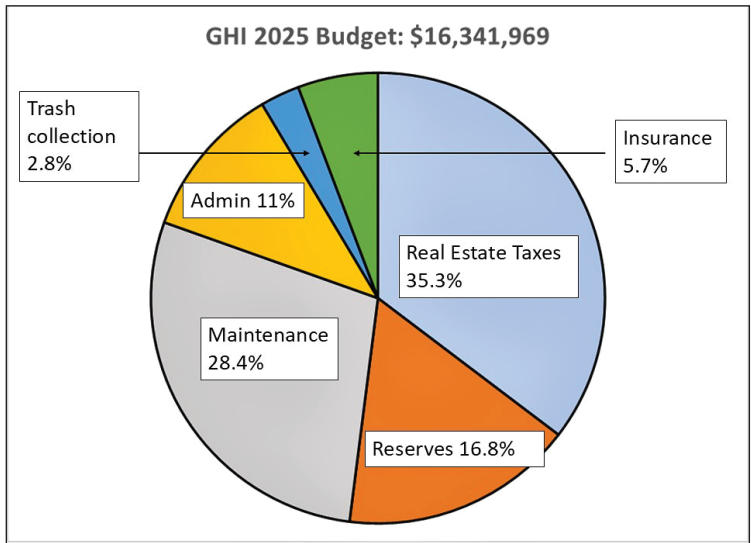
Councilmember Silke Pope read a letter by resident Scott Legendre who questioned the present proceeding in part because the names of members of the JEDI group have not been shared publicly and the complaint is based to some extent on implied allegations of a history of abusive language directed toward city staff by Roberts.

Resident Bob Rand expressed

See **ROBERTS**, page 6

GHI Members Meet to Discuss Pipe Replacement, Budget, Handbook

by Maurice Crawford



GHI Budget for 2025

On Thursday, December 12, the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Board of Directors held a town hall meeting to inform members about revisions to the member handbook, the 2025 budget and the next steps in the Pipe Replacement Project.

Pipe Replacement

Director of Technical Services Thomas Williams gave an update on the Pilot Pipe Replacement Project which replaced pipes in about 25 units. The eventual goal is to replace aging pipes in all GHI units but the effort will be-

gin in framed homes where pipes have been found to be in worse condition.

From the pilot project GHI learned that members vacated their homes for six to eight business days. Members were allowed to return to use their home offices as long as they remained in the safe zones of their home (zones in which renovations were not occurring). Some members needed assistance in finding temporary housing. In response to

See **GHI**, page 10

City Perseveres with Legal Fight Over Withdrawal of Firefighters

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

At the December 9 Greenbelt City Council meeting, City Manager Josué Salmerón spoke about the city's renewed legal efforts to challenge the removal of career firefighters from the Greenbelt Fire Department in June. Salmerón also shared the news that the city will now have a paramedic ambulance 24/7 effective December 29 (for more on the fire department staffing changes coming at the end of this month see last week's issue of the News Review).

“Our legal efforts are moving forward,” said Mayor Emmett Jordan. The city, along with Berwyn Heights and College Park, took legal action in June after learning of the planned removal of career staff. Their temporary restraining order was rejected on

July 1 (see the July 4 issue) and a circuit court judge dismissed the larger case on October 21 (see the October 24 issue).

The city has now filed a Motion to Amend to include new evidence the city has been able to gather, said Salmerón. That new evidence includes the city providing funding to support incentivizing volunteers to cover shifts at the Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights stations. That's resulted in improvements, said Salmerón, particularly in coverage at Berwyn Heights, where they've been able to increase staffing to respond to emergencies in Green-

belt. He added, “We've also filed a Motion for Reconsideration and an appeal to the state on the matter.”

Jordan said he wanted to meet with the leadership of the Greenbelt Fire Department before the holidays. Salmerón agreed that a meeting should take place, especially since the city has \$70,000 of funding encumbered and not yet disbursed. Council previously approved \$100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funding to support the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) and

See **FIREFIGHTERS**, page 10

What Goes On

Monday, December 23
No City Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 25
No Council Meeting, Christmas Holiday; all city offices closed

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Greenbelt K9 Officer Zeppelin meets Santa Claus. See article on page 9.

Letters to the Editor

Rebuke of Tone

At the Monday December 9 City Council meeting, Mayor Pro-Tem Weaver re-introduced a motion to rebuke Councilmember Roberts for being disrespectful to city staff. Council discussion brought out that Councilmember Roberts was being rebuked as much for his tone as for his words. By this standard, the mayor pro-tem deserves rebuke as well. On this evening, her voice was the loudest, her tone the harshest, and her request that council set the example of respectful disagreement the most hypocritical; she gave this observer the strong impression that she harbors personal animus against Councilmember Roberts. Members of the public in attendance who had viewed the video of the only specific incident cited by the mayor pro-tem found Councilmember Roberts’ words and tone unobjectionable.

Keith Jahoda

Roberts Rebuke Is Undemocratic

Council voted at the December 9 meeting to rebuke Councilmember Rodney Roberts. The vote was 5-2 in favor of rebuke with Councilmembers Silke Pope and Roberts voting against the motion. The process that council used was clearly undemocratic. Roberts was never provided with an opportunity to question his accusers prior to being rebuked. He is part of the team to which City Manager Josué Salmerón is accountable. Roberts requested from Salmerón the names of the JEDI Action Team members. As a sitting councilmember Roberts is entitled to receive this information without submitting a Maryland Public Information Act request. The response Salmerón offered to the News Review in the December 12 article, What is the JEDI Action Team, provided a historical context of the JEDI

See **LETTERS**, page 10



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
DECEMBER 20th - 26th

Queer (R) (CC) (DVS) (2024)
(135 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM

A Real Pain (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (90 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 7:45 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM (OC)
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM

Flow (PG) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (85 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:15 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 5:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:30 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM

It's A Wonderful Life
(PG) (1946) (130 mins)
Reel Magic of the Holidays!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 1:00 PM

A Complete Unknown (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (140 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 12:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Babygirl (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (114 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 7:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Wed. 12:45 PM



Holiday Deadlines

To accommodate our printer’s Christmas and New Year’s schedule, our December 26 and January 2 issues will be printed a day late, but our deadlines will be a day early for those issues.

Advertisements: Camera-ready display ads, classifieds and any required payments are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 23 or 30. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 20 or 27. There will be no office hours on Tuesdays, December 24 and 31, and no ads will be accepted that day.

Submissions: To be considered for publication, articles over 700 words are due by Sunday, December 22 or 29 at 2 p.m. All letters to the editor (300-word limit) are due by Sunday, December 22 or 29 at 6 p.m. Articles under 700 words and photographs are due by 2 p.m. on Monday, December 23 or 30.

Don't be a goose and risk coal in your stocking or being added to the naughty list – get your ads and articles in on time.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Scully, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Tom Jones, treasurer; Carol Griffith, Erica Johns and Sandy Rodgers

PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Queer

1950. William Lee (Daniel Craig), an American expat in Mexico City, spends his days almost entirely alone, except for a few contacts with other members of the small American community. His encounter with Eugene Allerton, an expat former soldier, new to the city, shows him, for the first time, that it might be finally possible to establish an intimate connection with somebody. Said critic Rebeca Tucker of the Globe and Mail, “It is a remarkably beautiful portrait of agony, anchored by Craig’s remarkably understated performance.”

A Real Pain

Mismatched cousins David (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji (Kieran Culkin) reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the odd couple’s old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history. Said Leonard Maltin of leonardmaltin.com, “Jesse Eisenberg has nothing to prove; he has already staked his claim as an actor, writer and director. But A Real Pain digs deeper than he ever has before – and it’s a really good movie.”

Flow

This animated feature is a wondrous journey through realms natural and mystical as it follows a courageous cat after his home is devastated by a great flood. Teaming up with a capybara, a lemur, a bird and a dog to navigate a boat in search of dry land, they must rely on trust, courage and wits to survive the perils of a newly aquatic planet. From the boundless imagination of the award-winning Latvian filmmaker Gints Zilbalodis (Away) comes a thrilling animated spectacle as well as a profound meditation on the fragility of the environment and the spirit of friendship and community. The Washington Post calls the film “a magical, wordless animated adventure,” that the paper’s critic Ty Burr gives the highest rating: four stars.

It’s a Wonderful Life


In this classic film from director Frank Capra, when George Bailey (James Stewart) wishes he had never been born, an angel (Henry Travers) is sent to earth to make George’s wish come true. George starts to realize how many lives he has changed and impacted, and how they would be different if he were never there.

A Complete Unknown


New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, Bob Dylan (Timothée Chalamet), an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota, arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.

Babygirl

A high-powered CEO (Nicole Kidman) puts her career and family on the line when she begins a torrid affair with her much younger intern (Harris Dickinson).




This Week at the New Deal Café



SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

*** Monday 5pm-10pm; Tuesday—Thursday 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 12midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm, **UNLESS NOTED**

TH 12/19	FRI 12/20	SAT 12/21	SUN 12/22
<p style="color: blue; font-size: small;">FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">The Porch Delights</p> <p style="color: green; font-size: small;">Front porch style Americana, featuring Ruthie Logsdon</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">UKULELE LADIES HOLIDAY SING ALONG, 4 - 5:30</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Fast Eddie & the Slowpokes</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">8-11pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-size: small;">A blend of Chicago, Swing & Jump Blues</p>	<p style="color: blue; font-size: small;">POETRY OPEN MIC, 1 - 3pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">The Sandra Dean Band</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">8-11pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-size: small;">Fresh interpretations of classic rock and soul</p>	<p style="color: blue; font-size: small;">ASL BRUNCH, 10:30-12noon</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Kim's Grand Rounds - A Songwriters Circle</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">6-8pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-size: small;">Songwriters perform and discuss their songs</p>

MON 12/23	TUES 12/24	WED 12/25	TH 12/26	New Deal Cafe
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">NO EVENTS</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">CAFE CLOSSES AT 9pm</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">HOLIDAY CAROLING</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT 2-4pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">CAFE CLOSSES AT 5P</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">CAFE CLOSED</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">BOXING DAY</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">CAFE OPEN 9AM - 4PM</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">We want to hear from you!</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">NewDealCafe.com; Click on ABOUT, them CONTACT THE CAFE</p>

Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DURING TRANSITION

Thank you for your understanding - NDC Board

Holiday Church Services

Greenbelt
Community
Church

One Hillside Road

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM
for Worship
and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Happy Hanukkah

The News Review wishes a
very happy Hanukkah and a very
merry Christmas to our readers.

Send details of your news to
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Christmas Eve
Mass

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
OF GREENBELT

A Roman Catholic lay led
Intentional Eucharistic Community
that welcomes Christians
of all denominations and genders.

Sunday Mass 10:00 am
Tuesday 6:00 pm
CITY COUNCIL ROOM
25 CRESCENT RD

To Join us by ZOOM email
CCG1985+ownere@groups.io

Greenbelt
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate hope with us.

“The global challenges now facing humanity are a severe
test of its willingness to put aside short-term self-interest
and come to terms with this stark spiritual and moral
reality: there is but one, interconnected human family
and it shares one precious homeland.”
– Universal House of Justice

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family
in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

The Bible Says...

Mary will bear a Son;
and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins.”
Matthew 1:21

Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 22, 2024 at 3:00 pm
Welcome Yule!

Eldritch with Worship Associates Anne Hoover and Sue Bollens

As is the pattern and wisdom of Nature – we gather – we connect – we reflect. As
a community we learn from each other. We offer inspiration and nurture intuition.
Renewed by our time together, we depart carrying with us images, music, words
and wishes for today, tomorrow and the years ahead.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship
service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Celebrate
December 24
four o'clock vigil Mass
eight o'clock Mass at night *

December 25
eight o'clock Mass in the morning
eleven o'clock Mass in the morning

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 CRESCENT ROAD
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

*livestreamed on YouTube

O come let us adore him!

Christmas Services

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

4512 College Avenue, College Park, MD 20740
www.saeccp.org

Christmas Eve, December 24th
5 p.m. Christmas Eve service with "no rehearsal pageant"
9:30 p.m. Christmas Carols
10 p.m. Christmas Eve service

Christmas Day, December 25th
10:30 a.m. Christmas morning service

First Sunday after Christmas,
December 29th
8 a.m. service: Eucharist (Communion)
10:30 a.m. service: Christmas Lessons and Carols

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

- John 1:5 -

All are welcome!



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 23-27

NO MEETINGS ALL WEEK - HOLIDAYS.

All City Offices CLOSED Wednesday, December 25

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas). This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh's Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND: Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

GREENBELT RECREATION: Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

APPLICANTS WANTED FOR CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

The City of Greenbelt is seeking applicants to join the Charter Review Task Force. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the future of our community.

For more information or to apply, please contact City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltmd.gov or (301) 474-3870.

AGING SOLO

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program Presents Aging Solo Working Group. The Aging Solo Working Group is a 6-week program that will have speakers and group discussions. Participants must be willing to make progress in their aging solo journey to participate in this working group. Must have taken the Aging Solo class prior to joining the group.

To register, (240) 424-0302.

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE Fall 2024-2025

Week	Location	Holiday
December 23-27	Lakeside	Christmas December 25
December 30 - January 3	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	New Years Day January 1

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION!

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. Public Works will pickup trees at locations listed below or online. Please insure all ornaments and lights are removed. Drop off your trees for recycling at specified areas up until **February 7, 2025.**

GHI

- Ridge Road, 73 Court (opposite playground)
- Plateau Place and Ridge Road (corner on playground side)
- Research Road and Hillside Road (corner)
- Ridge Road, 44 Court (Area near playground)
- Eastway & Crescent Road (corner)
- Ridge Road, 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)
- Crescent Road and Ridge Road (playground at junction)
- Parkway (corner across from 58 Court Crescent Road)
- Parkway (corner across from Community Church)
- Southway, 7 Court (playground at Little League field)
- Ridge Road, 11 Court and 13 Court (area between courts)

BOXWOOD

- Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane (playground)

Lakewood

- Greenhill Road & Crescent Road (by Baptist Church)

CHARLESTOWNE VILLAGE AND CHARLESTOWNE NORTH

- Property adjacent to Attic Park

UNIVERSITY SQUARE

- In front of swimming pool

LAKESIDE NORTH

- Near Swimming pool

SPRINGHILL LAKE

- Field past 9294 Edmonston

GREENBRIAR

- Between buildings 7708 & 7710
- Between buildings 7728 & 7730
- Between buildings 7826 & 7828
- Between buildings 8003 & 8009

GLEN OAKS

- Between buildings 7903 & 7905
- Between buildings 7509 & 7511

HUNTING RIDGE

- Between buildings 6936 & 6978

WINDSOR GREEN

- At court entrances, picked up by Windsor Green staff

GREENBROOK VILLAGE AND ESTATES

- Southeast corner of Ora Glen Dr & Matthew Dr
- Southeast corner of Hanover Parkway and Greenbrook Drive
- In front of barricade - Mandan Road & Matthew St

GREENWOOD VILLAGE

- Opposite 8175 Mandan
- Opposite 7646 Mandan
- Opposite 7648 Mandan

GREENSPRING AND GREENSPRING II

- Southwest corner of Megan Lane & Craddock Rd
- Park area between 7926 & 8006 Greenbury Dr
- Corner of Spring Manor Drive & Springshire Way
- Open area between 6519 & 6515 Springcrest Dr

BELLE POINT

- Corner of Vanity Fair Dr. & Prince James Way
- Open area between 7800 & 7801 Vanity Fair Dr.
- Open area beside 7962 Vanity Fair Drive

GREENBELT VILLAGE

- Open area between 6729 & 6715 Village Park Dr
- Open area across from 6632 Lake Park Drive
- Open area across from 6510 & 6512 Lake Park Dr

GREENBELT STATION

- Central Park field along Stream Bank Lane



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays
THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of December 23 and December 30

Monday Route – Regular Schedule

Tuesday Route – Regular Schedule

Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday

Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, December 27 and Friday, January 3.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY VISIT Monday, February 10, 11 am - 4 pm

Join Greenbelt Recreation and Senior Globetrotting as we visit The National Museum of African American History and Culture. It is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. Enjoy lunch on your own at the museum or at a local restaurant.

You may register online or in person at Greenbelt Community Center.

Activity #178202-1. Resident: \$5, Non-Resident: \$7

Events and programs are 60+ (Open to All Ages). Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240)- 542- 2056, pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov.

COME SIGN WITH US

Monday, February 10, 11 am - 4 pm

Join Greenbelt Recreation and instructor, Bobbi Kayer, as we learn to communicate in sign language! This class is for those with minimal or no experience.

The class will focus on American Sign Language (ASL) signs and structure, with time for instruction as well as practice.

You can register online or in person at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Activity #157202-1. Tuesdays, 1/14-3/11, 3- 5 pm at the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 202. Resident: \$55, Non-Resident: \$63 Ages 14+

Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov, (240) 542-2056 for more information.

GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

This FREE program will start in January. To be eligible you must: Live within City limits, have children ages newborn to 3 years old, children who wear diapers or pull-ups. Program Features: Up to 10 bi-weekly home visits from student nurses. Services include: Diapers, formula, wipes and so much more!

Questions? Need help registering?

Please contact Brendy Maddox at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

PROPOSED COUNCIL VACANCY PROCESS

The proposed Council Vacancy Process legislation will be introduced for a first reading on **December 9**. A public hearing on the proposed Council Vacancy Process will be held on **January 13, 2025**.

The Greenbelt Board of Elections has proposed two options for the Council to consider in the event of a vacancy on City Council. If "Option 1" is chosen, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the Election Code. Alternatively, if "Option 2" is selected, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the City Charter. Both options will follow the proposed timeline for filling the vacancy as follows:

1. VACANCY OCCURS (REASON: DEATH, RESIGNATION, INCAPACITY, OR FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE):

- Determine the timing of the vacancy in relation to the next election

2. MORE THAN 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

Special Mail-in Election:

- Candidates must file nomination papers.
- Ballots are mailed to voters.
- Voters have 30 days to respond.

3. BETWEEN 60 AND 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

Council Majority Vote:

- Seat filled by majority vote after a public hearing.

4. Within 60 Days of Next Election:

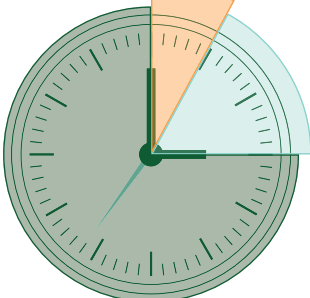
Council Discretion:

- The seat may remain vacant or may be filled at the Council's discretion.

5. SIMULTANEOUS VACANCIES:

- If three or more vacancies occur simultaneously, a special election is required.

Two (2) Year City Election Cycle Clock



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/elections

OR scan the QR code below



GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greenbelt, MD - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Office of the County Executive
countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-4131

Office of the County Fire Chief
tdgreen@co.pg.md.us
(301) 883-5200

At-Large County Council Member Hawkins
At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-2195

County Council Member District 4
councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-3094

Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:

City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or council@greenbeltmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Trees, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today! Call (301) 474-8000.

PUBLIC ART PROJECT For Braden Athletic Complex

Public Art for the Braden Athletic Complex Community members who use the Braden courts, fields and pedestrian/bike path. Participate in an **Active Stakeholder Survey** to help guide a new public art project! <https://bit.ly/3OgiTcQ>. Read more about the project: <https://bit.ly/3UTjrjg>.





The Ukulele Ladies enjoyed performing holiday favorites for attendees of Venturing Crew 746’s Winter Wonderland at Mowatt Church on Saturday, December 7. From left, Jenn L., Li’l Dan C., Dan L. and JoEllen S.

ARPA Finale: New Website, Chargers, Food and More

by Diane Oberg

With the end-of-year deadline for encumbering funds fast approaching, much of the December 9 regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council consisted of approving contracts and other expenditures funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These expenditures will fund a wide range of projects from a redesign of the city’s website to food insecurity grants to electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Assistant City Manager Timothy George, who has been leading the ARPA projects, said that there is about \$70,000 to \$75,000 in ARPA funds left. Council scheduled a special meeting on December 18 to approve the final expenditures.

The projects below are all funded with ARPA funds unless otherwise specified.

Website

Council approved a nearly \$45,000 contract with CivicPlus to redesign the city’s websites. The city of Annapolis is among the firm’s clients. Liz Vesta, representing CivicPlus, walked council through that city’s website demonstrating some of the features residents might expect from the redesign, such as improved search capabilities and a tie-in to Google Translate, so that content on the site can be viewed in other languages, although pdf documents cannot be translated in this way.

Vesta said the company’s products are fully compliant with the recent U.S. Department of Justice policy that says that accessibility to the digital landscape is just as important as accessibility to the physical landscape.

In addition to the initial contract cost, there will be an ongoing \$28,000 per year cost, which is less than the city is currently paying for its website, City Manager Josué Salmerón said.

Food Insecurity

As part of the consent agenda (approved without discussion), council authorized grants to the Capital Area Food Bank (\$24,000), Meals on Wheels of College Park (\$72,000), Master Touch Food Pantry (\$12,000), St. Hugh’s Food Pantry (\$76,000) and Holiday Boxes (\$20,000). Master Touch is a Greenbelt program providing food to Greenbelt residents while Holiday Boxes is run by Greenbelt CARES and

provides holiday food boxes from Sardi’s Catering.

Charging Stations

Council approved a contract with Blue Whale EV, LLC for \$225,735 to install eight EV charging stations in the Library/Community Center parking lot. Nearly \$196,000 of this cost will be funded through ARPA, with any remaining cost not offset by rebates funded through state bond bill allocations for EV infrastructure. These stations will serve both city and private vehicles. The charging stations will include six level 2 charging ports and one dual-port fast charger. Among these, one level 2 charging port will be designated for ADA-accessible parking. The timeline for this project is unclear as the city is dependent upon engineering and approvals from PEPCO plus the need to acquire a 40-amp transformer.

Other Grants

Council approved \$50,000 toward the continued operations of a workforce development center and entrepreneur incubator lab cooperating with The SPACE: Free Art for All and \$10,000 to Favor’s Table.

Lights

Council also authorized spending \$11,000 to purchase solar lights for the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Salmerón said that the lights would arrive in about four weeks. The installation schedule depends upon the weather as concrete footers must be installed which may result in additional cost if the city decides to contract for this work.

Camera

Council approved a contract with Insight Vision, Inc. for \$37,787 for an IRIS mainline camera, which will allow city staff to look inside stormwater pipes and under collapsed concrete slabs and such without having to hire a company to provide this service.

No Action

One project council expected to fund was a new Animal Shelter. However, Salmerón reported that, last week, the cost of the project increased from \$180,000 to \$400,000. He has concluded that the only viable solution is to fix the current shelter, while acknowledging it is not the best solution.

ROBERTS continued from page 1

his support for the JEDI team but did not support a censure, arguing that the best way to deal with misconduct by a member is for council to respond in the moment..

Roberts, recognized by Jordan, claimed he was being held to a different standard by other members and being falsely accused. He requested that council complete the discussion since he was being injured physically, mentally and monetarily by the accusations. Council voted to move item #14 to the top of its agenda.

The Complaint

In a memorandum addressed to City Manager Josué Salmerón and dated August 29, 2024, the JEDI Action Team complained that:

“Councilmember Roberts spoke in a disrespectful, demeaning and abusive manner to Deputy [Police] Chief [Tim] White and about the City’s Public Works Department. He made statements that disparaged the skills of the Public Works Department and implied that our colleagues were “dumb” for accepting the vendor’s quote. While the recent incidents have drawn attention, it is important to note this is not an isolated incident; similar behavior amongst councilmembers has been ongoing for some time and employees have previously been instructed to simply tolerate it rather than address it directly.”

Among its recommendations, JEDI requested that: “The City Council should censure Councilmember Roberts for his ongoing inappropriate conduct. Additionally, moving forward the council should censure any councilmember or meeting attendee for inappropriate conduct such as the behavior described.” Jordan had already stated the discussion and vote would not be a trial, and later Weaver would reject the word “censure” in favor of “reprimand” and “rebuke” in describing how council might respond to the complaint against Roberts.

The crux of the issue is that at the August 12 council meeting, Roberts told Deputy Chief White, “My problem is, is the Sports Chevrolet [dealership] will tell you anything and they’ll charge you anything. And if you’re dumb enough to take that, then you are ... You can buy a new engine, complete engine for this.” Later during that meeting Roberts stated, “You can buy a brand new engine for \$4,000. And if we have mechanics at Public Works, they can put an engine in. If they can’t put an engine in, then you know, get a book and teach yourself as you do and let them

expand their knowledge a little bit. If [your mechanics] are not willing to learn then get someone who is willing to learn.” Later, Weaver stated that she could understand how someone could see that last statement as a threat to their job.

Council proceeded to a motion made by Weaver that Roberts be publicly rebuked for this and his allegedly long history of verbal abuse directed at city employees. Weaver expressed satisfaction that the JEDI team felt empowered to come forward with the complaint that they presented to Salmerón and he conveyed to council. Weaver and Jordan both called on council to codify procedures for dealing with misconduct by its members.

Roberts, in response, complained about “a secret group of employees that have slandered my name in the News Review” and charged that council’s action “was intended to shut me up.” Roberts claimed that his civil and constitutional rights were being violated, such as his right to face his accusers. Pope explained that she would not vote for censure since the complaint had not been handled properly, even though she did feel that Roberts’ words had been offensive. Weaver reminded everyone that any action taken by council would not be a censure but more like a reprimand. Jordan assured everyone that in executive sessions members do sometimes sharply criticize each other. Councilmember Jenni Pompei also praised JEDI for coming forward; she distinguished between Roberts’ intentions, however positive, and the hurtful impact of his words and agreed that council needs to codify its responses when members violate standing rules. Councilmember Danielle McKinney emphasized the need to hear individual as well as collective voices and also the need for council to model the behavior it wished Greenbelt’s citizens would practice with each other.

Roberts answered by calling for the dismantling of JEDI, calling it a “monster” and “out of control.” Councilmember Amy Knesel pointed out that Roberts was once again vilifying city employees, to which Roberts replied that he was only exercising his right to speak. To his assertion that he comes from a different world where people speak more directly to each other, McKinney replied that they live in the same world, in 2024 and in Greenbelt, and the issue here was the manner in which people speak to each other so that they all feel respected.

Pope asserted that members need to take responsibility for the language that they use and that while JEDI’s role and authority need to be defined better, it is unfair to blame everything on its members.

Weaver reiterated that she hopes council will show that it does not condone such language as that used by Roberts on the occasion under discussion.

Resident Bob Rudd stated that while he had not voted for Roberts in 25 years, he now finds himself defending Roberts’ right to speak since, in Rudd’s view, Roberts was not out of line or abusive, but saying what he truly felt. Suggesting a faceless committee without official sanction from the city was accusing Roberts, Rudd claimed that what was at work here was a “woke-ism” or “cancel culture” that recently the American public had strongly repudiated at the national level.

Largely agreeing with Rudd, resident Robert Snyder asserted that diversity is more than just gender, race or ethnicity; it’s also diversity of thought, expression and mannerism, which is what Roberts represents to him. Roberts shouldn’t be reprimanded or scolded because he sometimes speaks harshly, he said.

Resident Kathy Legendre, participating online, noted that the present controversy has a long history and warned what was happening to Roberts could happen in the future to any councilmember. She agreed with previous speakers that complaints against Roberts had gotten out of control and proposed that council hire a facilitator to help Jordan move meetings along and minimize misconduct by all participants.

Finally, pointing out that JEDI still remained anonymous and the public didn’t know if one or all of its members agreed with the complaint, resident Bill Orleans stated that Roberts was criticizing city policy, not individuals.

Jordan responded by emphasizing that council’s action would result not just from the proceedings at present but also from the closed executive session devoted to discussing the complaint.

Several attendees questioned the authority of the JEDI Action Team in relation to members of council. This was raised by Scott Legendre, who wrote, “It is unclear how and when members of the JEDI committee received authorization to dictate how members of council should conduct themselves.” Keith Jahoda questioned if this is the right governance model for JEDI

See **ROBERTS**, page 12

The Naughty List

An Improv Comedy Soap Opera

the detective

GAC

12/14 & 12/21

Council Sets Methods for Filling Vacancies; Public Hearing Set

by Diane Oberg

At its December 9 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council introduced an ordinance and a charter resolution for first reading to change how the city fills vacancies on council, such as occurred recently with the resignation of Colin Byrd and the death of Ric Gordon. As is normal for first readings, there was no discussion of the proposed legislation. A public hearing will be held on January 13 on the proposed legislation.

The two pieces of legislation not only change the procedure for filling council vacancies, they also remove the specifics from the charter, allowing council to change its procedure at any time by simple ordinance.

Current Process

The city charter and city code currently call for council to appoint a replacement member unless three or more vacancies have occurred, in which case there is to be a special election. Council appointed Konrad Herling to fill the remaining 2.5 months of Byrd's term.

Since Gordon died shortly after the start of the council term, there was considerable controversy about the process for filling his seat, with some residents calling for a special election. Council eventually appointed Amy Knesel to fulfill his term after holding a public hearing on the issue.

The current charter/code does not make any distinction between how to fill vacancies occurring a short time before a council election and those occurring earlier in the term.

Charter Amendment

Currently, the process for filling a council vacancy is spelled out in the city charter. It says:

"If a seat in the council becomes vacant, the remaining members of council by a majority vote shall, as soon as possible, elect a person to fill the unexpired term. If three (3) or more council seats are vacant at the same time, the board of elections shall call at the earliest date a special election to fill said vacancies for the unexpired terms."

If the proposed charter amendment is approved, that language will change to:

"If a seat on the council becomes vacant for any reason, including without limitation death or resignation, physical or mental or legal incapacity, or willful failure to participate in council proceedings, all as determined by a majority vote of the council, then the vacancy shall be filled as provided in sections 8-14 of the city code."

City Code

Under the proposed legislation, how council fills a vacancy will vary based upon when a council

vacancy occurs. The proposed ordinance provides that:

Each candidate to fill the vacancy must be a qualified voter at least 18 years old.

If the vacancy occurs at least 181 days prior to the next election, then it will be filled by a special election by mail-in voting.

If the vacancy occurs 61 to 180 days before the next election, then council will fill the vacancy by majority vote within 45 days. It must hold a public hearing in each city area and allow a written nomination until the date of the final hearing.

If more than 90 days before the election there occur three or more vacancies, then the seats must be filled by special election.

Other Actions

In other actions as part of the consent agenda, council:

Approved Greenbelt Ultimate's application as a city recognition group. The purpose of the group is to provide a weekly, casual pick-up ultimate frisbee game to residents of Greenbelt and nearby areas.

Approved extending the city's red-light camera enforcement program for one year. City staff estimates that as a result of Howard County (which runs the program) changing contractors and its pricing model, the city will save about \$70,000 compared to the current contract.

Alonzo Washington Becomes Fifth Candidate for County Exec

On, Wednesday, December 11, Maryland State Senator Alonzo Washington announced his candidacy for county executive. On Tuesday, December 10, Rushern Baker also officially announced his intention to run.

Washington, age 41, is a Democrat who was appointed to the Maryland Senate to represent District 22 beginning January last year. He was appointed by Governor Wes Moore. Prior to joining the Senate he served in the House of Delegates from 2012 to 2023.

Washington serves on the following committees in the Senate: Finance Committee since 2023, the Joint Subcommittee on Program Open Space and Agricultural Land Preservation beginning this year and Judicial Proceedings Committee since 2023. He is a member of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus and the Maryland Legislative Transit Caucus.

In the Assembly he served on the Ways and Means Committee and numerous sub-committees beginning in 2013 and was committee vice chair from 2020 to 2023. He served on the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families, the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, the Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds, the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee and the Spending Affordability Committee. He was deputy majority whip from 2015 to 2018 and Parliamentarian in 2019. He has been on the Maryland State Arts Council since 2015.



PHOTO COURTESY ALONZO WASHINGTON

Alonzo Washington

Another candidate, Tonya Sweat, has also declared her intention to run. She is a small business owner and community activist who ran for county executive in 2022 and will run again this year. She said residents who are tired of the same faces and politicians contacted her to run. Sweat is focusing on public safety, tackling the county's budget deficit and improving education.

Sweat is an attorney who manages her own consulting firm. She has been vice president of advocacy for the Maryland PTA and she is a member of Maryland Forward.

Other candidates for the position that has been vacated by Angela Alsobrooks include Aisha Braveboy, Calvin Hawkins and Jolene Ivey. For more on those candidates see the December 5 issue of the News Review.

The deadline for candidates to file to run in the special election is this Friday, December 20.

City Notes

The staff appreciation holiday party drew a big, happy crowd. Economic Development and the City Manager promoted city resources at the Goddard Contractors Association and Hospitality Sector meetings.

Finance received its 35th consecutive Government Finance Officers Association Budget Award. Information Technology met with county and city fire department representatives about Emergency Medical Services IT needs. Shelter residents are two dogs and a cat.

Santa visited the Youth Center, winner of the City Door Decorating Contest. The Aquatic & Fitness Center passed 83 Toys for Tots to VFW organizers.

Arts' Dance Performance Club presented The Snow Queen. Public Works, Recreation and Park Rangers facilitated this and many other holiday events.

The Museum's holiday open house welcomed 46 guests, while the Cinema offered a free movie.

Therapeutic Recreation took seniors to the Ballet Theatre of Maryland. Rangers facilitated events by the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) and Greenbelt/Beltsville Garden Club.

At a county program about returning from incarceration, CARES staff promoted mental health, anger management and active parenting classes.

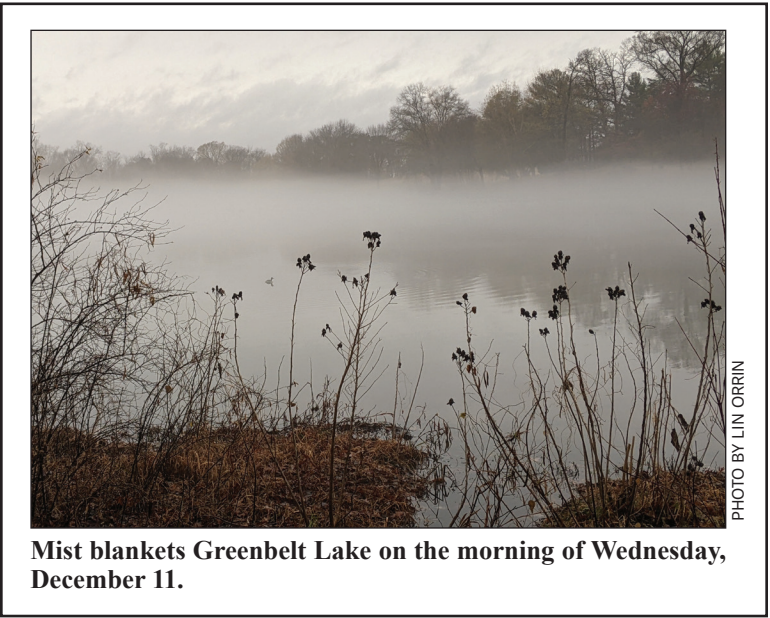


PHOTO BY LIN ORRIN

Mist blankets Greenbelt Lake on the morning of Wednesday, December 11.

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

Nobody Knows Your Name?
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www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

The GCF needs volunteers!

The Greenbelt Community Foundation is very shorthanded. We need board members, a webmaster, fundraisers, and especially a treasurer. For as little as an hour a month you can help us continue to help Greenbelt. Have you considered making a New Year's resolution to help the community more? Well, now's your chance. Contact us at greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com or visit <https://greenbeltfoundation.org> for information on how to join us.

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Greenbelt Eats

Once a Traveling Diplomat’s Chef, Karim Cooks Up Home in Greenbelt

by Leo Casalini

By now most have likely heard about, walked past or been in Cedars of Lebanon, the restaurant situated in Roosevelt Center and serving – no surprise – Lebanese food.

Last Monday was my first time, and stepping inside was a particular pleasure as the cold and rainy drabness that pervaded the center stopped at the door. The walls are painted a light pink, with a darker shade contrasting on the bottom. Tchotchkes adorned the windowsills, while paintings claimed the walls – even the tables get in on the act with the cloths matching the general color scheme and small vases of pink-and-white flowers sitting at the end of each. The whole place exudes a feeling of comfort that was only amplified when I met restaurant owner Abdul Karim Kmaiha. Wearing a knitted sweater and with a scarf around his neck, he was the embodiment of the word.

Karim has been nourishing Greenbelters for 17 years. Earlier he was the chef at the New Deal Café for several years. He opened his own restaurant six years ago and runs it with his wife, Maria Almeida, the couple working alongside their two daughters and a few other staff. Cedars of Lebanon replaced the Curves Gym which previously occupied the space. Karim renovated it with a substantial sum of money he won from a scratch-off lottery ticket, coincidentally bought at the mini-mart three stores down from where the restaurant now stands and Cedars of Lebanon was born.

His own restaurant is the culmination of decades of endeavors in the culinary field.

Graduating from culinary school in Beirut in 1974, Karim worked a few jobs “here and there,” at one point opening his own bakery, and at another becoming the first to sell hamburgers in the southern part of the country. Though perhaps the most notable was his tenure as the private chef to a Lebanese diplomat, with whom he stayed for a little over a decade and a half, and which would see him travel to countless countries across the globe.

Looking back on his travels alongside the diplomat, Karim recalled visiting France the most. The land which modern day Lebanon sits on had been designated a French protectorate after the fall of the Ottoman empire in World War I, and was likely the reason for the frequent visits. Even though the “French Mandate” which tied the two together ended in 1946, French culture and institutions are still deeply rooted in the country. The French were not the first to leave their mark, however. Civilizations like the Assyrians, Persians and even the Babylonians, among others, all sprinkled their own unique flavor into the rich melting pot called modern day Lebanon. From that pot, along with a language and culture made up of a fusion of many different peoples, came a vast array of foods, all seemingly seeking to topple and balance out the plate they sit on.

I had the chance to get a taste for myself in the form of the



Cedars of Lebanon Chef Karim in his kitchen

mezze platter, “Lebanese Traditional,” which came as a plate filled with morsels common in everyday Lebanese fare. There was tabbouleh, a salad whose main ingredients were finely chopped parsley, tomatoes, onions, lemon juice and olive oil; baba ghanoush, an eggplant based hummus; falafel; chickpea hummus; and kibbeh – deep-fried pockets of meat and spices among other things, which quickly became my favorite. And of course, pita bread. My sincere apologies to Karim and the staff because as one can likely see by the picture, I forgot to take a picture before I started eating. To their credit though, the dish was well plated, and I enjoyed it immensely. The tartness of the tabbouleh cooled by the creamy richness of the hummus, followed by a bite of the kibbeh was my favorite combination. Other food on the menu includes kabobs, shawarma and desserts such as baklava and crème de caramel.

Talking to Karim it was obvious that he enjoys being in Greenbelt. When he and his wife, Maria, visited the area almost two decades ago now, prompted



The Lebanese Traditional
- Photos by Leo Casalini

by some friends, he said the community aspect was what drew them in, and it has also been what has kept them here. In Lebanon, Karim mentioned, community is an essential part of life. And the truth of that statement seemed to hold true as the restaurant, with its paintings and pink walls, seemed to feel more like a home.

Leo Casalini is a senior at Northwestern High School writing for the News Review.

Favor’s Table Fifth Christmas Giveaway

Favor’s Table will hold its Fifth Annual Christmas Giveaway on Saturday, December 21 at 4 p.m. at Mowatt Memorial Methodist Church. A child must be present to receive toys and shoes. Food, new shoes, clothes, toys, diapers, bras, underwear, socks, sanitary pads and household items will be given away. New and gently used items are included. To receive diapers, bring baby’s birth certificate or health insurance card. Bring bags. The Church is located at 40 Ridge Road in Greenbelt; the event will be in the church fellowship hall.

GIVES Needs Drivers

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and obtain a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church Dec. Schedule

St. Andrew’s mission and purpose is to build an inclusive, welcoming Christian community. They are a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and The Episcopal Church, and are partners with The Humble Walk campus ministry at the University of Maryland. Below is the Holiday schedule.

Christmas Eve, December 24: 5 p.m., Christmas Eve service with “no rehearsal pageant;” 9:30 p.m., Christmas Carols; and 10 p.m., Christmas Eve service

Christmas Morning service, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas, December 29, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

The church is located at 4512 College Avenue, College Park. Go to saeccp.org or call 301-864-8880.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.



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Greenbelt’s Furry Pets Visit Santa; Raise Money for Animal Shelter

by Tim King



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER

Santa waits by the fire to take photos with pets.

The Greenbelt Animal Shelter hosted its Santa Paws event on Saturday, December 14 at Schrom Hills Park. For a donation of \$10, participants could get a photo of their pet with Santa Claus.

First stop was the staffed sign-up table in front of the large-windowed indoor pavilion. After giving the pet name and the donation, pets and their owners could go inside and meet Santa for their photos. Photos were then sent to the email address of the owner.

Stationed on a cushioned chair in front of a backdrop graphic of a roaring fireplace, Santa received the furry friends. After calming down a bit from the thrill, the pets were able to sit still long enough for a quick but well-done holiday photo. Local police K9 Zeppelin was one of the first to participate. The German short-haired pointer, certified in gun and bomb detection, was so excited to see Santa he may have knocked over a decoration.

When asked how long the event has been taking place, the volunteers were not entirely sure,

but a quick look back at this paper’s archives shows a similar event occurring in 2018, and then again in 2023 at the Greenbelt Police Department. So at least six years in, the Greenbelt Animal Shelter has done Santa Paws in one way or another to raise extra cash.

As far as fundraising goals, the answer was, “Anything helps.” It was a chilly morning on Saturday, and 30 minutes into the event, only three or four dogs had participated. A similar fundraising event this paper has covered, Pooch Plunge, takes place in September. Local dogs then can take a dip in the Greenbelt Aquatic Center pool.

Greenbelt is also lucky to have Santa be able to dedicate some of his time to this cause. Trained in Midland, Mich., at the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School, and a member of the IBRBS (International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas), Santa Claus can also be seen at the College Park Winter Wonderland and other local charity events.

Patuxent Refuge Winter Films

The Patuxent Research Refuge Film and Speaker Series brings the research and conservation of the refuge to the screen on the first Friday of the next few months, from 5 to 7 p.m. Each date will involve a free movie screening and a speaker talking about the practices and research conducted at the refuge.

Each event has a different theme with different speakers or films, making no two events the same.

On Friday, January 3, Whooping Crane Recovery Efforts.

The themes for February 7 and March 7 are yet to be determined.

For more information, visit fws.gov/event/patuxent-wildlife-research-refuge-film-speaker-series. Or contact the refuge staff: William O’Boyle, william_oboyle@fws.gov or 301-497-5772 (Wed.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The Refuge Visitor Center is located at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Md. Route 197.

Volunteers Needed For Tool Library

The Greenbelt Makerspace seeks volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email us at staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt Makerspace is accessed via the exterior stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.



Greenbelt Krampusnacht Was Both Scary and Fun

by Daniel M. Thies

On Saturday evening, December 14, the third annual Greenbelt Krampusnacht took place at Roosevelt Center. Taking inspiration from Alpine Christmastime traditions of a horned and hoofed Krampus to counterbalance the jovial Saint Nick, folks came together wearing creative and scary twists on festive costumes. The Greenbelt Honk! Situation played two sets of “scarols” – spooky arrangements of familiar Christmas songs – and during their intermission, the “Witches of the Green Shire” did a group dance for the crowd. The week prior, the Greenbelt Honk! Situation took part in the Fells Point Krampuslauf in Baltimore and, returning the favor, the Baltimore Krampus made an appearance at the Greenbelt event.

Although some of the appearances were monstrous, the atmosphere of the event was welcoming. Leading up to the event, posts in Greenbelt-centered Facebook groups reminded folks that the event was free for everyone, but that unwrapped toys would be appreciated as donations to Toys-For-Tots. To continue the holiday festivities, the Greenbelt Honk! Situation plans to follow up this Friday evening with a Lantern Parade that will begin by the Firefly Sanctuary at 6 p.m. and travel to Roosevelt Center. See page 3 for details.

- Photos by Jon Gardner



Greenbelt Honk! Situation plays at Krampusnacht in Roosevelt Center on December 14. Pictured: Vanessa Zanin, center



Greenbelt Honk! Situation plays scarols.



Elaborate costumes are on display at the Krampus festivities in Roosevelt Center.

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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

GHI continued from page 1

this finding, GHI will assess members’ needs for temporary housing during the 2025 pipe replacement project. GHI also found that more water heaters had to be replaced and they spent more time in the crawl spaces than was anticipated. PVC pipes were identified as the most efficient for replacing current pipes. During the project, affected members can expect to receive weekly email updates.

In 2025 the Pipe Replacement Project will occur in 100 homes over four phases that affect the following units: (1) Research Road Courts 8 and 9, (2) Research Road Court 7, (3) Research Road Court 6 and Ridge Road Court 73, and (4) Ridge Road Courts 69 and 71.

Specifically, the project involves surveying each unit to document kitchen and bathroom conditions, executing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to outline GHI and member responsibilities, preparing project specifications for pricing and reviewing contractor proposals. With the board’s approval, GHI Technical Services will then draft and implement the contract and communicate the start date and schedule to members.

GHI 2025 Budget

In budget materials sent to GHI members Stefan Brodd, GHI president, stated that “... GHI continues to be in a strong financial condition and able to meet [its] financial commitments.” This was supported by GHI General Manager James Claggett, who summarized the 2025 budget and stated that membership fees for 2025 would increase by 3.5 percent. The largest portion of membership fees will go toward real estate taxes at \$5,775,213 (35.3 percent). This year’s amount projects an increase in real estate taxes of about 9.3 percent. The second largest portion of the budget is for maintenance at \$4,627,715 (28.4 percent), which includes payroll/benefits, materials and contracted services such as gutter cleaning. GHI has a Replacement Reserve fund that covers the cost of replacing major items including but not limited to roofs, windows and doors. There is an Addition Maintenance Program where members with additions pay an additional fee included in their monthly co-op fee. Together these two items are expected to total \$2,731,752 (16.8 percent). Administrative expenses including payroll and benefits for the administrative staff are estimated to come to \$1,799,479 (11.0 percent). Finally, insurance and trash collection are budgeted at \$933,510 (5.7 percent) and \$461,800 (2.8 percent), respectively.



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Member Handbook

Board Vice President Debbie McKinley provided an update on revisions to the Member Handbook, which is sometimes referred to as the Green Book. McKinley said the handbook has been restructured into six sections: an introduction about Greenbelt and GHI; cosmetic and minor alterations (changes that do not require a permit or only a GHI permit); major alterations and addition requirements (changes that require a permit from GHI, city and/or county); GHI cooperative living; procedures to sell, rent or assign the GHI unit; and community resources.

The handbook has been revised to make it more user friendly and standardized: the formatting and font are the same throughout, inconsistencies removed and language clarified and updated. The document also was

updated to reflect current rules and standards.

The handbook has been reviewed by GHI staff and comments have been received from the board, which McKinley and her team are now addressing. After the board approves the updated handbook, it will go out to members for feedback before being finalized by the board.

The frequent water outages in GHI over recent weeks are unrelated to the GHI Pipe Replacement Program. On several occasions over the last couple of months, including this week and last, residents have lost access to water in some GHI courts due to breaks in aging pipes in the street beyond the units and work being conducted by WSSC.

FIREFIGHTERS continued from page 1

Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department (BHVFD), of which \$30,000 has been spent. So far \$10,000 has been disbursed to support GVFD and \$15,000 to BHVFD and around \$5,000 has been spent to improve and deep clean the Greenbelt station.

Beginning December 29, Greenbelt’s station will gain a round-the-clock paramedic ambulance and retain one of the emergency medical services units available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.,

the hours of peak activity, seven days a week (currently it has just two peak units). The change at the end of the month “is a welcome improvement,” said Salmerón, though, “obviously it’s not the full staffing we had hoped for.” He characterized the addition as an upgrade but expressed disappointment that the removal of career staff, which the city had been led to believe was a temporary summer staffing plan, continues into the winter season.

Letters cont'd from p.2

Action Team. However, the core basic question remains unanswered. Why did Salmerón deny Roberts’ request for the names of the JEDI Action Team members prior to council’s vote to rebuke him? As of the December 9 meeting, Salmerón has denied Roberts this information. Any person who is accused of misconduct has the bona fide right to question the individuals making the accusations. Why was mediation not offered to Roberts to include the JEDI Action Team and/or Public Works employees who were offended by his commentary? The failure of Salmerón to disclose the identity of JEDI Action Team members to Roberts upon request is alarming. This points to a concerted effort by council and Salmerón to coerce Roberts to accept disciplinary action.

This is not the first time a select majority of council has chosen to conduct business in an undemocratic fashion. Prior to the rebuke of Roberts, four out of the six sitting councilmembers chose to dismiss the votes of their constituents and appoint an individual to council. The individual chosen by council was not a candidate in the November 7, 2023, election. A majority of council voted to approve this appointment with the exception of Pope and Roberts. The actions taken on December 9 clearly demonstrate that an undemocratic process has been and continues to be followed by a select majority of council. The rebuke of Roberts confirms a rampant disregard in following the democratic process. The rebuke is only a link in the chain of actions taken by a select majority of council which demonstrate their continuing disregard for following a legitimate democratic process.

Editor’s Note: City Manager Josué Salmerón told the News Review he provided the names of the members of the JEDI Action Team to all councilmembers on December 3.

More Scoop On Dog Poop

The Companion Animal Committee in GHI provides plastic bags and bag containers/dispensers to facilitate dog owners picking up their dog’s poop. These containers are attached to posts with signs that say “Scoop your pet’s poop.” There are signs attached to the containers that state the containers are only for fresh, new bags and ask people to not put bags of poop or trash in the containers.

It is extremely unfortunate that unthinking individuals repeatedly put bags of poop in the bag dispensers, which causes unhealthy nasty problems as there is no poop or trash collection from these containers. If you see or know of anyone contributing to this problem ask them to stop. Usually, but not always, there are trash cans near the dispensers so do dispose of your dog’s waste in an appropriate manner.

*Eldridge Brown, Member
GHI Companion
Animal Committee*

Boxwood Poop Addendum

We were remiss in not mentioning, in last week’s News Review, the locations of trash receptacles for dog waste. They are located at the Metrobus stops at Crescent and Lastner and Ivy and Ridge, and at the playground at Ivy and Lastner.

If there are more in Boxwood, let us know.

And thanks for cleaning up after your pet!

The Celdran-Taylor Family



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 9-15, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported three domestic incidents, all with arrests, a suicide and a mental health diversion. On December 15 near Cherrywood Lane and Springhill Drive, a lost child was found walking alone in the rain after dark, and was reunited with his family. On December 11 near 5902 Cherrywood Terrace, a father reported his adult son missing. On December 15 near 9171 Springhill Lane, a woman called to report that she had not seen her daughter since November 5; charges are pending for failing to report a child missing.

Robbery

On December 12 at 4:30 p.m. near 7327 Morrison Drive, a boy was robbed by two men who hopped out of a vehicle and took his shoes and jacket when he was on his way home from school.

Attempted Armed Robbery

On December 9 at 1:47 a.m. near 5995 Springhill Drive, a witness saw a man try to fight and rob another man. Officers located an uncooperative victim.

Fight

On December 13 at 6:03 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, two men were fighting and were separated prior to officers arriving.

Suspicious Person

On December 14 at 8:40 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, an intoxicated man was causing employee issues and he was banned from the location.

DUI

On December 9 at 10:11 p.m. near 6116 Breezewood Drive, a vehicle was illegally parked on the grass near a dumpster. The vehicle was running and the driver was unconscious. He was arrested and charged with suspicion of DUI.

On December 14 at 1:32 a.m. on Ridge Road, an intoxicated driver struck two vehicles, resulting in overturning his own vehicle. He was arrested and charged with DUI.

On December 15 at 10:33 p.m. near 6201 Springhill Drive, an intoxicated driver struck multiple parked vehicles and attempted to flee on foot. Officers arrested him and charged him with DUI.

Fraud

On December 13 near 6003 Springhill Drive, a woman made a purchase at a store and later discovered multiple charges she had not made. Her bank is investigating.

Shoplifting

On December 9 at 6:48 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items from the store.

On December 10 at 10:23 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole two gaming controllers.

On December 10 at 4:47 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man grabbed two electronic items, concealed them and left without paying; the events were captured on camera.

On December 11 at 9:26 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was stopped after stealing merchandise and issued a criminal citation.

On December 11 at 11:59 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two women were stopped after stealing items; charges are filed and they were banned.

On December 13 at 11:24

a.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a woman was stopped after stealing merchandise; all items were returned, and she was issued a criminal citation and banned from the store; at 12:21 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a repeat shop-lifter stole merchandise; at 2:44 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man broke into a cabinet and stole merchandise.

On December 14 at 12:11 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone took store property without paying.

Theft

On December 9 at 12:49 p.m., near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, a customer stole an employee's cell phone while checking out and fled the scene.

On December 10 at 8:43 p.m. near 6202 Breezewood Drive, a parrot was stolen from a residence, with no signs of forced entry.

On December 11 near 7220 Morrison Drive, the victim says someone took \$500,000 worth of jewelry from her home. She believes it was her roommate.

On December 13 near 6972 Hanover Parkway, a package was stolen from the doorstep; at 10:33 a.m. near 7810 Walker Drive, a camera was stolen from a government command post trailer.

Vandalism

On December 11 at 7:34 p.m. near 6114 Breezewood Drive, someone threw two rocks through a bedroom window.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicle

On December 15 near 6025 Springhill Drive, a 2014 Nissan Altima (Md. 5CH5472) was stolen from the parking lot.

Attempted Theft of Vehicles

Three vehicles were found with broken windows and ignition damage: on December 10, a Hyundai near 6221 Springhill Court; and on December 15, a 2014 Honda Civic near 9127 Edmonston Terrace and a Hyundai Sonata near 5811 Cherrywood Terrace.

Vehicles Found

On December 9 near 9326 Edmonston Road, a vehicle was reported stolen but it had been repossessed. On December 12 near 9154 Springhill Court, a car stolen from Charles County was found. On December 13 near 8001 Lakecrest Drive, a stolen 2015 Hyundai was found parked with the engine running.

Theft from Auto

On December 11 near 7810 Walker Drive, the wheels were stolen from a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado.

Vehicles were broken into and property stolen: December 9 near 6002 Springhill Drive; December 13 near 7595 Greenbelt Road; December 15 near 7200 Hanover Drive, a Kia Forte and a Toyota Tundra and near 9114 Edmonston Road, a Toyota Camry.

Tools were stolen from a 2016 Dodge Ram on December 11 near 6207 Springhill Court, and from a Toyota Highlander on December 14 near 9125 Springhill Lane.

Vandalism to Auto

Windows were broken December 10 near 9135 Edmonston Terrace on a 2021 Kia Forte; near 6113 Breezewood Court on a 2007 BMW and near 6225 Springhill Court on a VW Jetta (the glove compartment was rifled through); December 11 near 5909 Cherrywood Terrace on a 2017 BMW and a 2021 Toyota Camry; on December 13 near 7525 Greenway Center Drive on a Ford truck; and on December 14 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, an Infiniti Q50 had the sunroof broken; near 6207 Springhill Court, a Toyota Camry was broken into and near 6109 Breezewood Court, a Honda Civic was broken into.



Greenbelt Road Shooting Leaves Teen Dead, Man in Critical State

A fatal shooting occurred Sunday, December 15 in an unincorporated area just outside of Greenbelt. The victim who died is 18-year-old Rasheed Davis of Germantown.

On Sunday evening, at approximately 10:50 p.m., officers responded to the report of a shooting in the 8500 block of Greenbelt Road. Once on scene, they located Davis and another adult male suffering from gunshot wounds. They were both taken to a hospital where Davis was later pronounced dead. The surviving victim was in critical condition.

Detectives are working to determine a motive and identify a suspect(s).

A reward of up to \$25,000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest and indictment in this case.

Anyone with information on this case who would like to speak to a Homicide Unit detective may call 301-516-2512 or 1-866-411-TIPS (8477). Callers can remain anonymous. Refer to case number 24-0074759.

Information for this article came from Prince George's County Police Department.




Officers Play Teens In Second Annual Basketball Game

On Thursday, December 12 officers from Greenbelt Police Department played their second annual basketball game against local youths. The goal is to offer

the teens some fun and positive interactions with police. For the second year, the officers won the game.



- Photos courtesy Greenbelt Police



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ROBERTS continued from page 6

and was concerned that it is not. Pope stated that the complaint should not have come from JEDI. Jordan stated that council has not delegated any authority to JEDI.

Salmerón Weighs In

Responding to a request by Jordan, Salmerón explained that JEDI had tried to follow proper channels in sending their complaint to him as city manager and that he then passed it on to council. He had also identified the members of JEDI to council. Salmerón described JEDI as a “pillar” in the “bottom up” approach where staff contribute ideas for making city government’s delivery of services the best organization possible. Weaver answered Orleans’ assertion that questions of misconduct by councilmembers should be handled publicly by reading the standing rule that stipulates councilmembers should not express criticism of staff in public but rather submit it to the city manager and to Human Resources. Weaver felt that efforts in private executive sessions to warn Roberts about his abusive language had failed and so there was no other recourse at present than to make it part of this regular meeting.

Weaver made the motion seconded by Pompei that council issue a “public rebuke” of Roberts for making disparaging remarks about city staff in “a public meet-

ing” – meaning specifically the worksession on August 12 – and council voted 5-2, with Roberts and Pope opposed, to support the motion and issue the rebuke.



Chipmunk eating a peanut



CO-OP continued from page 1

leaving the Co-op, unhappy with the management, and morale is low, reported former and current employees in August. At the December meeting, Audrey Dixon and former employee Jessica Silver spoke on behalf of friends who are Co-op employees, who Dixon and Silver say have been afraid to speak since that August meeting, to which, they said, there’s been no response from the board. Bernheisel said the board has discussed the topic since the last board meeting and doesn’t discuss personnel policies publicly.

Employee Concerns

“Very few people ... enjoy any aspect of how they’re managed and in fact, feel it [is] hostile and are afraid to come here. Everyone that I asked to come [to this meeting] and give their true sense so this place can grow, has been afraid to lose their jobs,” stated Dixon last week. She would love for the board to take action, have regulations and make employees a higher priority, said Dixon. “Customer-to-employee misconduct ... [is] a huge issue especially when employees have gotten death threats, harm threats and harassment and nothing has been done about that,” complained Dixon, echoing complaints heard by the board in August.

Dixon expressed what she said were employees’ concerns about the treatment of a longtime colleague who was demoted from being a front-end supervisor and replaced by a new front-store

manager, who was brought back from the New Deal Café following the dissolution of the store’s partnership as vendor there.

“There’s just no sense of community here. Every employee I talk to says [the manager] has no compassion for any of them. No one has gotten a raise. I just don’t know what else I can do. I can’t go to you all,” Silver said to the board, citing a lack of response to previous comments and emails. Silver recently resorted to posting on social media about employee dissatisfaction at the Co-op.

Board member Leonard Wallace asked Silver and Dixon to suggest first steps for board interactions with them, members and employees, which Wallace himself and Silver answered together: helping employees speak without feeling uncomfortable. Dixon asked “Are there any policies if an employee has a complaint about working conditions, even about the way that [General Manager] Dan [Gillotte] manages, are there policies in place to protect them from demotion and employment termination?” Silver followed with “Because that’s the biggest thing I’m getting. I can’t get any of the employees to come here,” she said. Such policies “would be a wonderful start if there aren’t any already,” said Dixon. Silver emphasized the importance of making such policies known, because employees fear retaliation, she said. Bernheisel noted the question.

See CO-OP, page 13





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CO-OP continued from page 12

Customer Concerns

Customer and Generous Joe’s owner Aaron Mengel asked via Zoom if policies prevent customers talking with staff. He described talking about his mother’s memorial with a cashier who was his mother’s friend. He said they were talking between her other customers for whom he stood aside, when Gillotte asked him to let her do her job, which Mengel found rude. “Given what the Co-op is – these are our community members we communicate with, and it seems a little off from what the Co-op is supposed to be,” said Mengel. He said he experienced this more than once and heard similar experiences from others. “It doesn’t feel like we have that community aspect of the Co-op anymore, and we should be able to speak to our fellow community members and the employees at the Co-op themselves. ... I didn’t know if that was common practice or normal, but it’s concerning.” James Thompson on Zoom wrote “The lack of speaking with cashiers lately is upsetting, [with] fears of reprimands and retribution.” Dixon said, “... this is a repeated issue for people including us.” Bernheisel said board members would discuss the topic.

Communication Challenges

The board wasn’t receiving email for over a year, during which emailed concerns from employees went astray. The problem was recently corrected, the board reported. Wallace encouraged people who have not received a response to email the board again. Silver and Dixon appreciated the email fix and a new meeting sign-in sheet for non-board member attendees, with a space for email addresses if attendees want the board to contact them.

The member comment period was at the meeting start, when some remote attendees could not join due to an initially broken link on the Co-op website, which was shared by Silver earlier that day on Facebook. The board reopened the comment period, though Zoom attendees hadn’t heard Dixon’s and Silver’s earlier comments.

Hopes for Next Steps

Dixon requested assurance of another meeting to discuss solutions that can be made public, to show progress and that “comments and concerns are not just going in one ear and out the other.” Wallace reiterated, “I think they’re looking for a response from us.” Bernheisel said, “I think we’ll respond. I think we’ll discuss and try to be deliberate and earnest but cautious in answering for [the Co-op] ... I feel like we’d speak differently

when answering for ourselves [as board members]; that seems like a consideration. I think we’ll address the issues.”

Silver later told the News Review she resigned in 2023 after workload-caused panic attacks which were disregarded with “a lack of care” and expectations to continue at the same pace. She said though hired for part-time work, she worked full-time hours without full-time benefits like insurance and even so, “loved working here until it became so much that I couldn’t.”

Talking with the News Review after the meeting, Silver and Dixon said they intended to share information and seek board acknowledgement of their concerns. Dixon hoped the board can make decisions that are best for the Co-op and best for the community, employees and customers. Silver worries about high employee turnover and wants “everyone to feel better about coming here.” Dixon “would love to see what I hear about, the community that was once vibrant, to have that vibrance and joyful community back, to see worker rights and the environment improve.”

The Co-op Responds

No current employees identified themselves or spoke on December 11, which Silver and Dixon attributed to their being afraid to speak. In a recent social media post, the board said they took seriously the concerns raised in August and investigated every allegation. The News Review contacted Co-op Board Chair Kim Kash, who said the store’s departmental managers are taking on greater responsibility, meeting weekly with their teams and instituting innovations like creating relationships to source fresh produce from local farmers market vendors, and that current employees are excited about changes across the store and happy in their workplace.

The News Review also contacted Gillotte, who responded that departmental managers told him this week that current staff do not share the concerns raised by the staff in August, and that issues were addressed when they occurred, not ignored. Kash wrote “the board has assessed and monitored Dan’s approach to staff. We are satisfied that he is responsive to staff concerns and complaints, and that he is continuously working on improving the Co-op for staff and customers. Decisions involving personnel will not be discussed publicly in accordance with privacy laws. But we know that Dan acts in a reasonable and responsible way toward issues of all stripe[s] that affect the Co-op.”

New Co-op Board Meets, Elects Officers, Discusses Finances

by Erica Johns

At the December 11 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy, board members elected new officers and reviewed pharmacy sales and plans for membership and donation drives and for grant opportunities. Virtual attendee participation was initially hampered by some attendees attempting to use a broken Zoom link that circulated earlier in the day. The meeting began with a moment of silence in honor of longtime employees Gina Murphy and Betty Edwards who died recently.

New Officers

At the November 9 annual membership meeting Co-op members elected seven board members, including incumbents Steven Bernheisel, Amy Drew, Kim Kash, Sarah Rusk, Joe Timer and Leonard Wallace and newcomer Amber Hennessy. On December 11, board members elected Kash as the new chair, re-elected Bernheisel as vice chair and Amy Drew as treasurer, and elected Sarah Rusk as the new secretary. Bernheisel led the meeting since officers weren’t elected until part-way into the agenda and Kash attended remotely over a troublesome internet connection. Kash recognized November board candidates Aaron Mengel and Philip Lake who attended via Zoom, inviting their contributions in other forms such as committees or projects.

The board decided to change “chairman” and “vice chairman” language in the bylaws to “chair” and “vice chair”, deciding they didn’t need Co-op members’ permission for the nonfunctional change.

Annual Meeting Brainstorming

Ideas are still being written up from when annual meeting attendees brainstormed the question “What role can members individually and collectively play in helping us to move forward to a positive thriving future at Co-op?”

Finances and Members

Drew said sales continue on a negative trend, with differences between grocery and pharmacy sales. Comparing a recent week to the same week one year ago, average weekly grocery sales are down 1.7 percent, but combined average weekly grocery and pharmacy sales are down over 10 percent, demonstrating significantly decreased pharmacy revenue.

General Manager Dan Gillotte said the decrease doesn’t reflect fewer numbers of prescriptions (which are steady), but lower drug prices, including drugs that changed from proprietary to generic – good news for customers but not for pharmacy revenue. What is good for revenue is that pharmacy benefit management fees (to companies that manage prescription coverage for health-care insurers), previously a major expense, have declined and are expected to remain steady. So, efforts to increase revenue must rely on grocery sales, and Gillotte recommended exploring separating pharmacy and grocery operations, referencing previous board discussion of the idea.

Gillotte said the store is gaining three to five new members and about \$500 in member equity weekly. A new member drive is planned for 2025, probably in January. Inspired by learning at the annual meeting of Co-op members from Bladensburg and Silver Spring, one of whom makes combined Co-op and Greenbelt Farmers Market trips, Gillotte and Marketing and Membership Coordinator Honora Banko plan information tables at area farmers markets in 2025 to attract new customers and members.

Email Problem Resolved

An email problem that lasted over one year had prevented board members from receiving emails sent to board@greenbelt.coop until a recent fix. The board has now received emails sent since August 2024, but cannot access emails sent before then. Anyone who emailed the board without response before August 2024 is encouraged to resend their email.

Employee Concerns

Several members raised concerns about employee working conditions, personnel management and customer-staff interactions. See separate article on page 1.

Grants and Donations

Rusk discussed grant opportunities, starting with a requested \$5,000 Greenbelt Community Foundation grant which is awaiting foundation approval, to fund a proposed exterior wall mural. Rusk may need help managing the mural project.

Rusk mentioned other grant sources that were promising but require building ownership so the Co-op isn’t eligible (Maryland Energy Administration for energy-efficient equipment and Prince George’s County Redevelopment Authority for façade improvements). Purchasing the building would increase grant opportunities. More promising is a U.S. Department of Agriculture program for projects to expand or preserve stable and perishable food access.

Board member Joe Timer, inspired by unsolicited member gifts and bequests of up to \$40,000 and the recent Greenbelt Cinema donation campaign, proposed a program to encourage member donations toward permanent support for the Co-op. These could include gifts of membership capital upon moving or death, permanently donating one’s Rays on the Roof loan or estate gifts. He will prepare a proposal for the January board meeting about a 2025 campaign for donations that, said Timer, “demonstrate a commitment to the importance of a member-owned supermarket and pharmacy in the heart of Greenbelt.”



A squirrel contends with a bird feeder in Old Greenbelt.




GREENBELT News Review
An Independent Newspaper

What’s in black, white and color and in need of your help?


www.greenbeltnewsreview.com





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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

HELP WANTED

FULL TIME POSITION – Warehouse assistant/delivery driver for Beltsville wholesale company. M-F daytime. A CDL license is not required for our 17’ box truck, the size of a small U-Haul truck. Warehouse and driving experience required. Spanish speaking is a plus, but not required. 301-937-4330. \$22.00 PER HOUR.

MERCHANDISE

CHRISTMAS, STAR WARS, Star Trek, Hess Trucks, Comics, Model Cars, Coins, Pedal Car, Sport Cars and Dinnerware. Gary: 301-809-0291

COLLECTIBLES – Small collector pays cash for coins/collections. Call Gary, 301-809-0291. Will come to you.

NOTICE

WELCOME BACK to Greenbelt Yiayia and Pappou. Love, Callum, Emmeline and Euan xxx.

SERVICES

HOUSECLEANING – Over 20 years in Greenbelt area. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or one-time cleaning offered. Local references and free estimates available. Debbie, 301-523-9884.

JJ ELECTRICAL SERVICES, LLC – Residential and commercial, service calls, EV chargers, Heavy ups and other electrical needs. Call 240-704-4993.

KELLAHER MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING, LLC – Junk removal, electrical, painting, drywall, leaf removal, landscape design, mulching flower beds, bucket truck services, stump grinding, pruning trees & removal, pole lighting, power washing siding & decks. Mulch & top soil delivery. Dkellaher@hotmail.com, 301-318-5472. Insured. Visa, MasterCard, Discover. www.Kellahermaintenance.com.

COMPUTERS, WIFI, PRINTERS – Documents Printing: Pickup, Dropoff, Training, Installing, Repairing, Troubleshooting. JBS, 240-601-4163.

THE FORCE FREE WAY DOG TRAINING – Private Sessions, Classes, Workshops, theforcefreewaydogtraining.com 919-864-0229

YARDWORK – rake leaves, mulching, weeding, trim and prune bushes. Call 410-940-9945 and ask for John.

HAULING AND JUNK REMOVAL – Complete clean out: garages, houses, construction debris, etc. Licensed & insured. Free estimates. Mike Smith, 301-346-0840.

PIANO TUNING – Greenbelt local. Comprehensive piano tuning, service, and restoration. 831-247-0043 www.WhitehousePiano.com.

LEAF COLLECTION and yard clean-up. Power washing and handyman services. BEST PRICES IN TOWN Call Kev 443-631-2115.

CUSTOM FLOORING, LLC – Installing all flooring products. Specializing in refinishing hardwood. Starting \$3.50 per sq. ft. Call Now 301-844-8897, www.customflooringllc.net.

HANDYMAN DAVE – Paint, woodwork, exterior house cleaning, bath, kitchens, floor, more. 443-404-0449.

HOUSE CLEANING – I have Greenbelt references, a new vacuum cleaner and cleaning supplies; Melody Dodson, 301-256-6937.

HEATING AND COOLING – We specialize in installing Mitsubishi ductless heat pump systems in Greenbelt Homes. Call Mike at H & C Heating & Cooling, 301-953-2113. Licensed and insured since 1969.

ANGELA’S HOUSE CLEANING AND PAINTING – Cleaning your home like my own, at reasonable prices. Painting inside and out. References available in Greenbelt. Ten years’ professional experience. AngelaLazol@hotmail.com; 240-645-5140.

ACADEMIC TUTORING – Fast, responsive, affordable services starting \$15/hour! Reduce frustration! Increase confidence! Satisfaction guaranteed! Free consultation! Text Ken 240-484-4695.

LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN – Will do all repairs and new installations. 20+ years’ experience. Call Desmond 301-346-5335.

CARING KIM’S PET CARE – Drop-in visits, boarding and walks. Mornings, Noon, Evenings and Nights, seven days a week. By a lifetime animal lover and caregiver. Offered for dogs, cats, and other small animals. Call Kim at 301-520-6708 for appointment or with any questions.



Is your dog bored?
Need exercise?

We provide

Mid-day Dog Walking
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301-260-TAIL (8245)

www.MaestrosTailPetCare.com



Holiday Deadlines

Camera-ready display ads, classifieds and any required payments are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 23 or 30. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 20 or 27. There will be no office hours on Tuesdays, December 24 and 31. See page 2 for a full list of holiday deadlines.

Continental Movers

Free boxes
Local – Long Distance
\$80 x two men
\$100 x three men
301-340-0602
202-438-1489
www.continentalmovers.net

S&A Plumbing Service Inc.

24/7 plumbing service needs
Garbage disposal, dishwasher
Leak, clog, faucets, etc.
Please call me.
Independent and local.
Prices reasonable.
Give me a call 240 988 8908
Time bank members receive
“great discounts”

RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$4.00 minimum for 15 words. \$1 for each 1-5 additional words. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.90/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$16.35). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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NEW ROOFS ♦ REROOFS ♦ REPAIR ♦ MAINTENANCE
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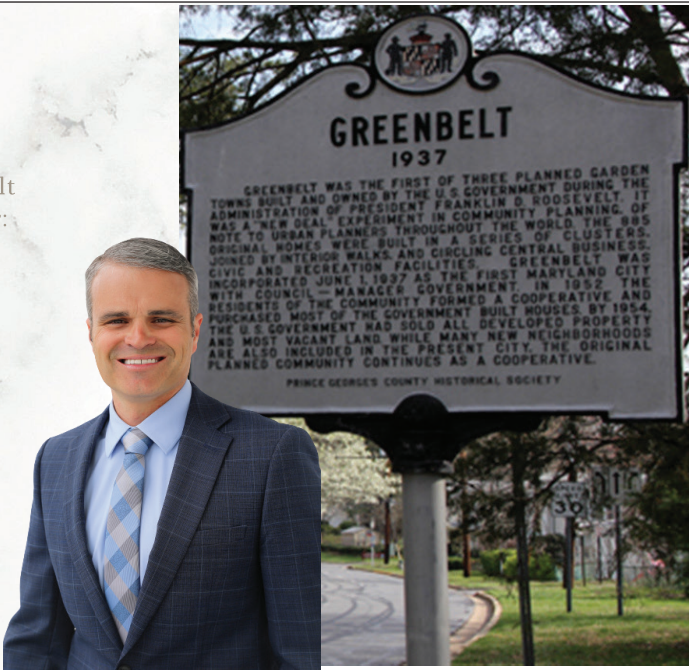
NCB has been financing at Greenbelt Homes for over 40 years. We offer:

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- Cooperative Expertise

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www.ncb.coop/rgreer
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Maryland
Department of
the Environment

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Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
301-982-2582

www.greenbeltautoandtruckrepair.com
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Master Certified Technicians



A complete service facility equipped to perform all service requirements that your manufacturer recommends to comply with Preventive Maintenance service schedules & extended warranty programs! Also, routine repairs that keep your vehicles operating safely and reliably.

Auto-body, collision repairs and theft recovery damage
A.S.E. Certified Technicians,
Insurance Claims Welcome.
Free estimates, please call for appointment

TOWN CENTER
Realty & Associates, Inc.
301-441-1071

WWW.TOWNCENTERMD.COM

WE WISH YOU A

MERRY

Christmas



Greenbelters Travel



PHOTO COURTESY MARY A. KOKUMO

Mary A. Kokumo travelled on vacation to Nigeria to see family and friends. Here she is at the MM International Airport, Lagos, Nigeria, while reading the News Review in the waiting area for her return trip back to the U.S.



PHOTO COURTESY REX WINGERTER

It is a triumph for the News Review to be in front of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris with Rex Wingerter.



PHOTO BY JOERN WILMS

These past days, Katja Pottschmidt has been at a science retreat for work near the Zugspitze, at ~9700 feet the highest mountain in Germany. This picture was taken on Friday, December 13 and shows her in front of the summit cross.



RICHARD K. GEHRING, HOME IMPROVEMENT
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Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Auto Repairs & Road Service
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GREENBELT, MD
301-474-8348

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Retail at Wholesale prices
We have over 10,000 yds. of carpet in stock for immediate installation.
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10220 Southard Drive
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(right next to Costco)

10% discount with this Ad
410-490-1836
Installed by the Holidays!

WHAT CLIENTS ARE SAYING
★★★★★

We are so thankful for Melanie's assistance in selling our home. She is incredibly knowledgeable about the Greenbelt real estate market and advised us wisely at every turn. Melanie walked us through every step from staging to contracts, and she made the process as easy as possible for us. She is kind, hardworking, and conscientious. We would absolutely recommend Melanie to our family, friends and neighbors!

— Liz Shooltz

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

Melanie Cantwell, Realtor®
C: 240-470-5911
O: 301-441-9511
Melanie.Cantwell@LNF.com
9094 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Realty 1, Inc.
Our 38th Year in Greenbelt
301 982-0044
R1MD.com

Leonard Wallace
Broker and President
301-675-9036

The Leader in
Greenbelt Real Estate
Since 1986

Brick Townhome on Corner Lot
11'x17' Master bedroom. New laminate flooring on both levels; remodeled. Large fenced yard with front patio.
Coming Soon GHI 2-bedroom townhome with extra half-bath. Remodeled with refinished hardwood flooring. Large fenced yard that backs to woods.

Need to reach us right away?
Text 'Greenbelt' to 88000 on your cell phone and get an instant response! We can show you any listing in Greenbelt.

Scan here with your cell phone and go directly to our website! Search all of the MLS and more.

3 Bedroom Townhome Large, fenced backyard that opens onto protected woodland. Remodeled top to bottom, opened kitchen & more.

SOLD

Single Level Living One bedroom GHI home with large corner lot. New appliances, washer/dryer. Freshly painted throughout - No stairs!

SOLD

Large Addition With Full Bathroom
Fenced lot adjacent to woodlands. Extra living space on the main level with shower bath. Coming soon!

Upper Level 1 Bedroom GHI Home
Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Remodeled kitchen. Full-sized washer/dryer in separate laundry room.

Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center
Since 1986

Season's Greetings from the City of Greenbelt

Each year at this time we come together with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. As 2024 draws to a close, the City Council, City employees, and members of Council's Advisory Boards and Committees wish all citizens a safe and joyful holiday and a prosperous New Year.

CITY COUNCIL

Kristen L.K. Weaver, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Jenni Pompei

Emmett V. Jordan, *Mayor (15 Years)*
Amy Knesel
Silke I. Pope **(15 Years)**

Danielle McKinney
Rodney M. Roberts

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Stephenie Arcido
Denna Lambert
Gulnura Rakhysnova
Robert Snyder

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Bob Trumbule

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Jim Drake
Isabelle Gournay
Matthew Inzeo
Maria Silvia Miller
Syed Shamim

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John Drago
Oliver Gaycken
Adriene Lim
Vijay Parameshwaran
Kristen Stenson
Barbara Stevens

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David Whaples

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Nicole Shyong
Beth Terry

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Nathan Gerdes
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Rev. Ray Raysor
Sudhanshu Sinha
Dea Zugby

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Donna Hoffmeister
Owen Kelley
Beth Novick
Damien Ossi
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Halchyon Ahearn
Rhema Bjorkland **(5 Years)**
Ronald Bjorkland
Matt Dirkson
Erica Hernandez **(5 Years)**
Lawrence Hilliard **(5 Years)**
Elissa Woodbury
Jane Young
Xochitl Zamora-Thompson

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Margaret Cahalan
Michael Hartman
Steve Skolnik
Jane Young

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Isiah Horton
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Martha Galvin
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Cynthia Jefferson
Elisabeth Kevorkian
Iona King
Patricia Rogers
Leon Schachter
Carol Shaw
Betty Timer

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Patrick Carroll
Koko Josey
Abigail Taylor
Jackson Tutthill **(5 Years)**

***BOLD DENOTATES MILESTONE**

CITY EMPLOYEES

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City Manager's Office
Josué Salmerón, *City Manager*
Tim George, *Asst. City Manager*

City Clerk's Office
Bonita Anderson, *City Clerk*
Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Tyra Smith, *DEI Officer*

Economic Development
John A. Mason, *Economic Development Manager*
Zihan Chen

Grants
Cary Eure, *Grant Coordinator*

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Dee Allen
Julissa Ramos-Rivera **(10 Years)**
Anahi Ramos
Marilou Whaples

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Julie Diez-Canseco
Julie Magness **(15 Years)**
Virmarie Rivera **(5 Years)**

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Tyrone Barnes
Nicholas Eddings
Clay Harman Jr.
Craig McGill

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Jamarie Spencer
James Wisniewski

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Christal Batey, *Asst. Director (20 Years)*
Deji (Olawale) Ayoku
Mary Barnabie
Katherine Farzin
Brendy Garcia
Natalie Garcia
Sierra Gholson
Sharon Johnson
Marina Kerlow
Orelia Lesh
Flora Li
Shakita Point
Sonia Ramos
Darren Stephenson
Paige Sweeney
Glenda Willis **(5 Years)**
Rishanda Winchester

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Gilberto Cabrera, *Asst. Director*
Jaime Fearer, *Asst. Director*
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Michael Day
Mildred Debord
Talia Hewan
Charles Reading
Ryan Sigworth

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Tim White, *Deputy Chief*
Jermaine Gulleddge, *Captain*
Michael Aggar, *Lieutenant*
Michael Parsley, *Lieutenant*
Ayotunde Akinseye
Erick Alvarez
Troy Arnold **(10 Years)**
Maria Auchter **(10 Years)**
Carolina Aviles
James Bowne
Konetta Brown
Neshia Cabrera-Pearson
Alexis Carranza
Jeal-Paul Dang
Dylan Davis **(5 Years)**
Rico Dennis
Daniel Dessalines
Tyler Fahey
Irelisse Fernandez **(10 Years)**
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Joshua Forney
Sarah Gignac
Kendall Graham
Johnnie Guy
Sharnise Hawkins-Graham
Dayanira Hough
Jessica Houle
Peyton Huber
Samantha Keifline
Abbey Kipke **(5 Years)**
Isaiah Law
Arran Leathery **(5 Years)**
Terra Magnotto
Randall Malachi
Richard Millien Rondon
Michelle Moo-Young **(30 Years)**
Terri Pineda Avila
Andrew Ordaz
James Parker **(10 Years)**
Gerald Potts III **(15 Years)**
Joe Mulhare
Ashleigh Proctor
Rakibur Rahman
KingBowe Ritson
Carl Roberson
Oscar Rodas Flores
Yomayra Rodriguez
Paula Ross
Emily Salazar
Daniel Sandoval
Christopher Shelby
Jovon Shorter
Aidan Sims
Glenn Smith

Amy Sosa
Eric Thomas Jr.
Michael Thomas Jr.
Rachel Tobin
Carlos Torres **(15 Years)**
Lawrence Upson III
Felix Vargish
Michael Watkins
Alicia Williams **(20 Years)**
Joshua Williams
Robert Wilttrout **(20 Years)**
Charles Wooten
Xiomara Wynkoop

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Brian Townsend, *Asst. Director*
Brian Abbott
Brian Allen
Gabriel Almirez
Michael Alston
Brian Bailey Jr.
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Michael Barnes
Leticia Benitez
Maria Blanco
Jeff Calebaugh
Michael Canavan
Logan Beasley
Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll **(5 Years)**
Donald Davis
Othon Emmanouil
Gustavo Escamilla-Marin
Mike Fox
Clive Frazer **(10 Years)**
Karen Galvez Contreras
Fredy Herrera
Cejay Hopkins
Matt Houchens
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Daluan Johnson
Frank Kellaheer
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Alexa Lauber
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Denis Lopez
Brian Lovelock
Edward Martinez
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Joshua McConnie
John McMillan
Jaime Mena
Herris Moo-Young
Joe Mulhare
Zack Patton
Bryant Penado
Chuck Rall
Mayra Ramirez
Rafael Ramirez-Aviles
Luisa Robles
Jaime Rojas
Nate Rozier
Humberto Saavedra-Ortega
Alexa Salas
Richard Sorzano **(10 Years)**
Lori Thiele
Robbie Tripe

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Anne Oudemans, *Asst. Director Programs*
Andrew Phelan, *Asst. Director Facilities*
Tyrique Abiodun
Bill Agbodjobe
Sabrina Alba
Clare Alexande
Kamal Ali
Daniel Aloys
Kimberly Alvarez
Sofia Anaya-Martinez
Elisabeth Anderson
Kara Andrews
Isaiah Aneiva
Karen Arrington **(15 Years)**
Nnaemeka Ariwaodo **(5 Years)**
Dorrian Asch
Naomi Aubert
Heather Babin
Thomas Baker
Maeve Ballantine
Matthew Baravechia
Naomi Barnett
Kailey Barton
Leia Barton
Tahirah Baith
Mary Ann Batula-Payette
Lincoln Beasley
Logan Beasley
Laura Beckert
Andrew Bender
Nadette Boughton
Alexandra Bowman
Caci Bradley
Edward Brennan
Camryn Briscoe
Henry Brittan-Powell
Jack Brittan-Powell
Thomas Brittan-Powell
Stefan Brodd
Cynthia Brown
Kenneth Brown
Michael Brown
Ian Brown-Gorrell
Amanda Butler
Brian Butler
Rufus Byrd
Erin Caldwell
Gabriela DiAndrea Camacho
Adam Campanile **(5 Years)**
Rachel Campbell
Ruth Campbell
Taylor Carrión **(5 Years)**
Claudia Carter
Jordan Carter
Margaret Cason
Danielle Celdran
Chris Cherry
Tiara Claggett
Dinah Cohen
Leah Cohen
Hannah Collins
John Commins
Sheila Concepcion Ayala
Michael Cooney
Nikos Cooper **(5 Years)**
Chris Corson **(5 Years)**
Alexina Costen

Skyla Covington
Rachel Cross **(10 Years)**
Malaya Cruz-Hubbard
Katy Cummings
Adam Daelemans
Vanessa Daelemans
Sally Davies
Chanelle Davis
Jayda Davis
Jaylee Davis
Amanda Demos Larsen
Gina Mai Denn
Nicole DeWald **(25 Years)**
Ginger Dorsey
Hannah Dwyer
Henry Dynan
Anthony Edwards
Hallie Eggleston
Julia Elm
Sophie Ellison
Lismeyri Encarnacion Ruiz
Kennedy Essex
Alison Everitt
Kaden Ezzell
Oladoyi Fadolutimi
Regan Farrar
Beth Fendlay **(20 Years)**
Christian Fermin Dominguez
Ana Fernandez-Napp
LaToya Fisher
Madysen Floyd
DaNya Ford
Angella Foster **(15 Years)**
Antoine Franklin
Ella Galban
Kavya Ganesan
Anne Gardner
Priya Gardner **(5 Years)**
Sage Garrettson
Kimberly Gary **(15 Years)**
Melanie Gaschick
Mary Gawlik
Iris Gaycken
Taïtyuana General
Ashley Gibbs
Marsha Gielen
Olivia Gills
Patrick Gleason
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Judy Goldberg-Strassler
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Trevin Green
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Christopher Hanna
Carrie Hannigan
Amy Hansen
Carolyn Hardy
Dominque Hart
Kathy Harvey
Karen Haseley
Alaska Heintzelman
Natalia Henderson

Kyle Herbert
Alexandra Hernandez
Xavier Heron **(5 Years)**
Meriam Hijej
Devin Hodge
Peter Holden **(10 Years)**
Findley Holland
Margaret Holland
Abbey Holmes
Christian Horchler
Gaye Houchens
Nikki Huff
Lauren Hutchison
Chinedu Ijohmoh
Bryston Ingram
Marilyn Irving
Samantha Iseli
Coreitta Isreal
Cora Jackson
Creedence Jackson
Kennedy Jackson
Snowden Jackson
Josiah Johnson
Lauryn Jonathan
Brandi Jones **(5 Years)**
Frank Jones
Abigail Jorgensen
Jerrold Joyner
Maryah Joyner
Bobbi Kayser
Kathleen Kayser **(10 Years)**
Theresa Keith
Racquel Keller
Linda Kelly
Rush Kester
Jerriann King
George Kochell
Taylor Koebler
Tina Lamanna **(10 Years)**
Michael Lamason
Aidan Larkin
Katherine Larkin
Mecca Lartigue
Seren Lerusse
Jonah Lewis
Josiah Lewis
Mary Anne Lipovsky
Valerie Lizzetti
Bryan Lucero-Ramirez
Eunhae Majett
Sheila Maffay-Tuthill
Ken Mahen
Lun Man
Rayhanna Mani
Janet Manson-Celestine **(5 Years)**
Jim Marley
Lauren Martin
Zaida Martinez Gutierrez
Bela Martins
Jackson Maul
Ruby Maul
Gregory May
Julia May
Colin Maxwell
Patricia McCarty
Madeleine McComb
Edward McCreanor
Eunice McCullough
Caitlyn McGillen
Kelly McLaughlin

Douglas Medina
Nicole Medina
Allisa Metellus
Sally Mills
Kathy Mitchell
Gary Moomau
Alek Moore
Kaleb Moore
Kira Moore
Gabriel Moreno
Derrick Morton
Patrick Mullen
Eileen Murray **(10 Years)**
Kellen Murray
Don Nalezty
Frank Nduka
Alexandria Nickel
Olivia Noel
Leah Novick
Blessing Nwoke
Xenia Ogundeh-Macaulay
Matt Okoree
Mark Okoree
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Jillian Pearson
Lisa Pellittiere
Angie Phillips
Viola Pitts **(5 Years)**
Valeska Populoh
Cathryn Pracht
Xinran (Rose) Qi
Rachel Quinton **(15 Years)**
Di Quynn Reno
Alyssa Ramacho
Mia Ramos
Lauren Rankel
Lillian Rankel
Riley Rios
Ashley Rivera **(5 Years)**
Jaida Rivera
Giris Robinson
Jay Robinson
Mark Robinson
Aleko Rodousakis
DiAngelin Ross
Katherine Ruckle
Gilbert Ruffin
Bryce Rusk
Kyle Ruthemeyer
Luis Sandoval
Jonathan Schnurr
Isabella Scribner
Megan Searning-Young
Abby Sellan
AJ Sesay
Jim Shaffer
Mila Shapiro
Melissa Sites **(20 Years)**
Connor Smith
Byron Snowden
Carter Snowden

Amaya Solar
Caroline Soter **(5 Years)**
Tameika Soumah
Amanda Spaid
Chris Speight
Cynthia Spruill
Rebecca Squire
Danielle Staggers
Maureen Stone
Margaret Strohecker
Aryan Suri
Vejune Svolteis **(5 Years)**
Amanda Swift
Alexander Swisdak
Maia Swisdak
Mahmoud Talass
Ian Talley
Michelle Tavss
Daniel Taylor
Harriett Taylor
Madison Telfer
Elizabeth Thomas
Emmally Thompson
Sheila Tiler
JaneE Tinker
Paige Tinsley
Khaleel Todd
Shomari Todd
Cheryl Townsend **(20 Years)**
Alysa Trivett
Teresa Trozzo
Quinn Valentich
Tina Van Pelt
Juliana Venegas
Chloe Verdin-Fittrell
Ernesto Vides-Austin
Angie Vinson
Marsha Voigt
Isabel Walder
Adrian Walker
Ashley Walker
Cameron Walls
Christian Webb **(10 Years)**
Felicia Wheeler
Doug White
Emily White
Stephanie Whiteman
Ottile Wilcox
Naomi Williams
Isaiah Willis
Alexandria Wilson
Nicholas Wilson
Aytabi Wolde Mariam
Xiaodan Yan
Gail Young
Vanessa Zanin
Christina Zhang
Danny Zolt

